

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 8, 11-14, and 17-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Komiya, et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,754,676, hereinafter Komiya); Claims 2-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komiya and Giger, et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,984,870, hereinafter Giger); Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komiya in view of Guha (U.S. Patent No. 5,373,452); Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komiya in view of Yoshida, et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,780, hereinafter Yoshida); and Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Komiya in view of Cabib, et. al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,784,162, hereinafter Cabib).

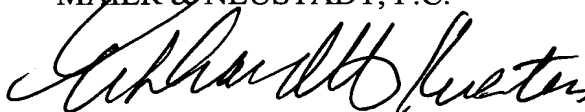
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the interview between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on April 17, 2003.

During the interview of April 17, 2003, the Examiner agreed that none of the cited references, individually or in combination teach or suggest all the features of original independent claim1. Therefore, the Examiner agreed to withdraw the pending rejection of Claims 1-19.

Accordingly, in view of the present amendment and in light of the previous discussion, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request an early and favorable action to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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